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### NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE decision to lay the Jones bill aside was reached in the Senate by the Democrats among the silver men, in view of the possibility that it might force an extra session of Congress by preventing the passage of the appropriation bills. That it would have passed the Senate if it had been offered in time, there is no room to doubt. Such silver men as Senator Stewart and Representatives Bryant and Sibley are very impatient of such intrusions of party politics into the discussion of the question. They even hint that the time has come to break loose from the older parties,

and to organize a silver party, which shall have no affiliations with either Democrats or Republicans. This, we think, would be highly inexpedient. We have had a long series of one-idea parties in this country, since the Anti-Masons took the field in 1828. But in not a solitary instance has the idea of a one-idea party benefited by such advocacy. Free-soilers, Know-nothings, Greenbackers, Prohibitionists, Single-taxers—all have failed. The Republican party was not an exception, for in addition to opposing the extension of slavery into the Territories, it favored protection to home industry, the Homestead law and the repression of Mormon insolence. It was not a party of one idea. A merely silver party might carry a considerable number of the States beyond the Missouri. It merely would make the position of the friends of silver within the Republican party more difficult, and diminish their influences in its councils.

THE move on the part of the German Reichstag toward an international conference on bimetallism is most significant. It was the adherence of Germany to the single gold standard which broke down the Bimetallic Latin League, and forced the general disuse of silver on the Continent. Germany, in fact, was England's first and principal convert to gold-monometallism, and at the time Bismarck adopted that policy he was under the influence of the English school of economists. As he told the late Judge Kelley, he lived to see the acceptance of their advice on both free trade and the gold standard. The former mistake he corrected in 1879, when Germany, after fifteen years of a trial of free trade, went back to protection. The latter he never seemed able to retrieve, as he depended for parliamentary support upon the National-Liberal members who represented the trading class in the great cities. That that class is as enthusiastic for gold as ever, is shown by the protests of their boards of trade against the action of the Reichstag. But now that the representatives of the agricultural classes have pulled themselves together in support of the actual ministry, it can afford to disregard these traders and their representatives, and to give heed to the demands of the producing classes. These feel exactly as do the same classes in America. They have been forced to measure the value of their products with a constantly lengthening yardstick, and they feel the burden of indebtedness with constantly increasing weight.

THE action of the Reichstag does not commit the Imperial Government to sending out the invitations to a conference. It is a request, not a command; and before the Berlin Government complies with it, it must feel its way with France and other interested countries. But the proposal is strongly supported in the German Cabinet, and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, who will have the negotiations in hand, is said to be especially anxious for the success of the new policy.

It is, therefore, not premature for Congress to make provision to have the United States represented adequately, in case the conference should be called. As Mr. Cleveland and his advisers profess their loyalty to the bimetallist principle, there can be no

objection to this arrangement from any important section of Congress. The only division of opinion can be as to the number of the representatives and the manner of selecting them. The plan to have three chosen by each branch of Congress and three by the President does not strike us favorably. It gives no security that more than a third would be heartily friendly to silver. To judge from the present look of things, more than the half of such a commission would be lukewarm in the matter.

ALTHOUGH the end of Congress is in sight, and the condition of the revenue is unfavorable to jobs of any large dimensions, the appropriation bills are no farther advanced than usual. The differences between House and Senate, both in political complexion and as to the currency policy, has led to the saddling of these bills with subsidiary legislation, in which disagreements are multiplying fast. Thus the Senate has adopted an amendment to the Sundry Civil bill, which secures the sugar producers the bounty on sugar for 1894, which the McKinley Tariff law promised them. Mr. Gorman's adoption of Mr. Reed's plan for the issue of certificates of indebtedness, instead of bonds, as an amendment to the same bill, is not so likely to pass the Senate. The silver men want neither, and Mr. Mills has offered a substitute, repealing "all laws which authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to sell the bonds of the United States for any purpose." This certainly would be drastic enough, as it would force the Treasury to pay out silver and gold proportionally in the redemption of its own notes. No proposal that has been made goes more directly to the root of the matter, but its chances of becoming law are very slight. We believe that Mr. Cleveland would face the annoyances of an extra session rather than allow its enactment. In estimating the possibilities of the situation, we must take account of the strength and earnestness of his convictions on this subject. He is as obstinate as he is wrong-headed.

WE do not wonder that Congress shows reluctance to pay to the Canadians the damages assessed upon the United States for the detention of their sealing vessels in Behring Sea. The submission of that question to international arbitration was one of the grave blunders of Mr. Harrison's administration. As we predicted at the time, it resulted in our being deprived of every right we claimed in those waters, and being fined exorbitantly for trying to enforce them. That has been our fortune thus far in every attempt we have made to settle our disputes with the British Empire by this method.

In this case the farther results to our property in Alaska have been the worst possible. Mr. Stanley Brown, one of the experts before the Board of Arbitration, and a recognized authority on seals and seal life, tells the National Geographical Society that the decision of the Board is resulting in the rapid extermination of the seals. The Canadians are killing the goose that laid the golden eggs as swiftly as possible, and in a few years the traffic in sealskins will be at an end through the entire cessation of the supply. He thinks this result hardly will serve to command arbitration as a means of settling international disputes. But republics have short memories. The decision against us at Geneva on every point not already conceded by the treaty of Washington, the bare-faced robbery of the Halifax tribunal, and the loss of the islands in Vancouver Channel were all forgotten, when we listened anew to the voice of the charmer, and staked our rights on the judgment of a board of diplomats.

So whether we like it or not, let us pay for the blunder and be done with it.

THE defeating of the bill to allow competing railroads to form traffic pools, under the direction and with the approval of the national Commissioner of Interstate Commerce, is one of the misfortunes of the session. As we pointed out at the time, the Interstate Commerce law made a grave blunder in forbidding every

kind of combination among the railroads. Such combinations often are needed to prevent a cutthroat competition, which renders the public no real service and depreciates the value of railroad property. In Europe such pools are carefully formed under government direction, and then they are not allowed to become oppressive to the public. In America the first effect of the prohibition was to force smaller lines into large combinations. Mr. MacLeod's transaction with the companies which carry anthracite coal was a specimen of this, although it went to pieces under the restriction laid by our State Constitution, which forbids parallel roads to combine. Others have been formed in New England, in the South and in the West. It looks as if the law would force all the railroads of America into one big trust, unless some relief is given. The bill proposed was a fair measure, and had the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commissioner. It has been defeated by the persistent opposition of a few badly instructed members of the House, who are doing much to force upon the country the very evils they most deprecate.

THE amount and rate of subscriptions, both in this country and in England, for the new loan (or purchase of gold with coin bonds) justifies the criticism of that measure already made, and proves the inexpediency and wastefulness of private bargains with syndicates of bankers. The amount asked by British subscribers was eighteen times as great as offered, and the terms proposed were some fifteen per cent. higher than our Treasury obtained. If Mr. Carlisle had thrown his loan open to subscription on both sides of the ocean, he would have got far more in return for the obligations under which he placed the country. This also shows that there is no need of any gold bonds to secure all the gold we choose to buy. Evidently these subscribers think they can take the risk of being repaid in the best money that is going, or they believe that before these bonds fall due the differences between gold and silver will be out of the way. This confidence of the London money market is the more notable, as it is in the face of a strong bear movement, in which the *Times* took part, depreciating American credit by all sorts of growling insinuations, and not abandoning this even after the success of the loan had falsified all its predictions.

THAT the death of a mulatto, born in slavery, should be treated as an event of national importance, and his remains carried from the banks of the Potomac to the shores of Lake Ontario, there to be received publicly by the Mayor and Councils of a great city, and that a Southern legislature should be obliged to explain that its adjournment on the day of his funeral was not a tribute to his memory, shows how great is the decay of race antipathies in the best part of the American people. Frederick Douglass marks the highest point reached by the black race, in that rapid elevation from barbarism to Christian civilization which it has undergone in America—an elevation much more rapid than we can find any parallel for in the history of the white race. His personal character heightened the general respect for his great abilities as an orator and a spokesman of his race. One element in it was the lofty self-respect, which made him scorn patronage of any sort, especially from those who thought themselves his best friends. He used, indeed, to say that Mr. Lincoln was the only white man who shook hands with him without seeming to think it a condescension.

THE death of Mr. S. Dana Horton, of Ohio, takes away one of the staunchest friends of bimetallism. By his labors on the International Conference, and by his books, Mr. Horton did much to rehabilitate silver in both America and Europe, especially the latter. He was not a great writer, but he knew how—as in "The Silver Pound"—to put the case to English readers so as to enlist national sentiment and associations on his side. Like Dr. Arendt, of Berlin, and a few others, he lived to see the tide turn against

gold-monometallism, while Van Kardoff, Cerruschi, Laveleye, Seyd, Kelley and others died in the wilderness marches.

THE observance of Washington's Birthday was more general and enthusiastic than for many years past. The deepening interest in our own history, which is evinced by the enlargement and improvement of our historical literature, could not but increase the interest in the greatest name that history has to show. The war for independence, as Mr. Leckey reminds us, was not the heroic age of American history. That came much later. But even the war for the Union, with its two great names of Lincoln and Grant, has no single figure as great as Washington. He stands out the more distinctly just because he was supported by no such tense passion of patriotism and self-sacrifice as sustained Lincoln and his associates. His achievement was the more remarkable and the more personal on that account. He wears well, as time slips away since his death, and we are able to measure him more fairly against the men his age thought as great or greater.

It is especially laudable to impress the great lines of his character upon the younger generation, as seems now to be done more than formerly in the observance of this national holiday. Young people are natural hero-worshippers, and if the true hero be not within their horizon, there is room to fear that they will lower their ideals of right in reverencing the false. In these days the Napoleonic cult is experiencing a revival which is sure to affect public opinion in America. It is profitable, therefore, to fix attention upon a great man who was loyal to duty and to truth, who never abused power to gratify a personal grudge, whose every victory as a soldier was won for his country alone, and who saw in public place and authority the means to benefit his countrymen, never to gratify a selfish desire. Neither will it be unprofitable to measure men in public life now against that great standard of the civic virtues.

IN several of our cities a movement is on foot to make some better provision for the children during the summer months, when the schools are closed. Mr. Jacob Ries is urging New York to establish a small park around every schoolhouse, both for the recess of the scholars during the school sessions, and as playgrounds after school hours and during vacation. Quite independently of him, the Culture Extension League of Philadelphia has taken the matter up, asking, as a first step, that the schoolhouse yards, and a part at least of the basements, be given to the same uses. The Board of Education is going to make the experiment in some of the densely peopled wards on the Delaware River-front this summer, and would do more if it had the money. But the City Councils have cut the appropriations for education so close that it is not possible for it to do much this year, as the arrangement involves additional expenditure for janitors and the like.

This is a matter in which the public should both feel and speak. Child life in a crowded city in a hot summer is something we hardly care to realize even in thought. It is said that in some years the death rate in Philadelphia exceeds the birth rate. Whoever will take a Sunday morning walk through the river-front wards in a hot summer month will see a reason for this.

ALL the reports from Armenia show that the Turk neither means to improve his government of the country, nor allow the atrocities of his rule to come to light. As he has no adequate conception of the modern facilities for publicity, he thinks he can stop talk by the testimony of terrified or suborned witnesses, and by forbidding European newspaper correspondents to visit the scene of the massacre. He knows, indeed, what Mr. Schuyler's exposure of the Bulgarian massacre cost him in 1879, and he is determined, at any cost, to prevent a repetition of the losses of revenue and territory which resulted. One might have supposed that he would have tried to obviate the necessity for investigation

and exposure by securing his Armenian subjects against massacre. To do him justice, this was rendered impossible by the religious and political code under which Moslem governments must act. The Shariat enacts misrule, intolerance and murder, and it is as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and the Persians. It has, practically, an authority equal to that of the Quran, as it is supposed to be made up of decisions pronounced by the Prophet, and transmitted by tradition. It forbids the oath of any unbeliever to be taken against any Moslem. It forbids the unbeliever to carry or possess arms for his own defense. It requires him to make an obeisance, when he meets a Moslem in the street or anywhere else, and justifies the Moslem in killing him for failing to do so. It subjects him to a heavy tribute, amounting often to a third or a half of his income, while the Moslem pays a tenth. It commands the collector of the tribute to take the unbeliever by the neck, to shake him, to throw him on the ground, saying, "Pay the tribute thou owest, dog of an unbeliever!" It is not the bad qualities of "the unspeakable Turk," but the vileness of Moslem law, that makes the subjection of Christians to Mohammedan rule intolerable.

#### RAILROADS AND LOW PRICES.

WHY a large majority of the managers of our great railroad systems take the side of the gold-monometallists in the great financial struggle is difficult to explain, unless we assume that they are running the railroads in the interests of the first mortgage bondholders, and without regard to the rights of the junior bondholders and stockholders.

In solvent railroads the managers are elected, in almost all cases, by the stockholders, and while they necessarily must observe the rights and equities of the bondholders, they are supposed to run the roads primarily in the interests of those who delegated to them their power—namely, the stockholders. That the managers of railroads so elected should knowingly pursue a course detrimental to the interests they were placed in a position of trust to protect, we cannot believe. Yet the monometallic policy which the majority of them support, tending as it does to lower prices and thus increase the burden of interest charges, destroys the power of railroads to earn returns for the stockholders, and forces many into receivers' hands with the result, in many cases, that the equity of the stockholders in the property is completely wiped out.

Of all our great industries the railroads are the greatest debtors. They are all heavily bonded, many to several times their actual value, and the indebtedness for the most part was contracted years ago.

Before we go further, let it be clearly understood that we do not justify the capitalization of railroad or other corporations beyond their actual cost, nor do we urge the justice of high freight and passenger rates which have been charged to enable railroads to pay interest charges on several times the amount of capital actually invested in them. On the other hand, we believe that dishonest overcapitalization of corporations—in other words, the issue of bonds and stock to an amount which more than represents the amount of the actual investment often several times—should be made a criminal offense. We further believe that freight and passenger charges should be fixed at rates that will enable the railroads to make a liberal return on the amount of capital actually invested, but we hold it is an injustice to charge the public for transportation services rates which are only made necessary if interest is to be paid on bonds and stock, which are not, and never were, represented by an actual investment of capital.

But to return to the discussion of the position which many railroad managers have taken on the money question—a position which is antagonistic to the interests of those they represent. The facts railroad managers should consider are these: the continual and discouraging fall of prices has destroyed the profit of

the producer and thus taken from him the ability to purchase what he needs. A wet blanket has been thrown over the ability of the producer to produce, and the consumer to consume; exchanges have been checked, and the railroads find that the demand for transportation has fallen off, and that the people are no longer able to pay the old rates. The railroads have found to their cost that although rates have been reduced (though not in proportion to the fall in the general level of prices), still the decrease in the amount of freight carried continues.

As we said before, our railroads are our greatest debtors. Their fixed charges have remained the same, but their ability to earn them has been undermined. Their assets have dwindled little by little, but it has been impossible for them to reduce their liabilities. With reduced rates and a reduced amount of tonnage they have striven in vain to meet their fixed interest charges. The result has first been suspension of dividends and then default of interest on the junior bonds, followed by receiverships and foreclosures, and the innocent owners of the stock and junior bonds find their equity in the property gone.

The contraction of the money of the world with the resulting ruin has vastly aided to multiply receiverships, and managers of railroads who support this policy strike at the prosperity of the country as well as at their own properties. If railroad presidents would consider the interests of those they represent they would be the most ardent of bimetallists.

But we apprehend a great many of the managers of our railroads support the gold-monometallic policy not because they believe by so doing they best serve to protect their interests, but because they fear to move counter to the desires of Messrs. Morgan and Belmont, of New York, and their allies. As the continued depression has become more and more severe, railroad tonnage and rates have fallen constantly, while the burden of the fixed charges has increased until at last the net earnings have so fallen that interest charges cannot be met. The question then presents itself to the managers, Shall we apply for a receivership or attempt to borrow more money to pay the interest in default? Hoping against hope that the depression is only temporary, and that when the new loan becomes due they will be able to pay it, they decide to borrow. They go of necessity to the great bankers who have been instrumental in bringing about the prevailing distress and, pledging their assets, they borrow on call or short time and at ruinous rates of interest the money necessary to tide them over and pay the interest defaulted on securities which are held in many cases by those who loan them the money. But the short respite avails nothing, times do not improve, interest is again in default and the loan falls due. The railroads ask for an extension and another new loan, but they must pay dearer than ever for it, and even a promise is exacted that they will use the power of their corporations to support the gold-monometallic policy—a policy that makes the loans more and more valuable and harder to meet. If they should dare to support the policy of bimetallism the loans are called and renewals refused, and if they will not retract they are ruined. Meanwhile the railroads become less and less able to resist and the clutches of the great bankers become more firmly fixed. Finally, when the crash comes, those who loaned the money to pay defaulted interest take the property to the ruin of the stockholders and junior bondholders. The putting off of the inevitable crash only serves to make it more disastrous when it comes.

It is because our railroad presidents cannot, or rather dare not, antagonize the policy of Messrs. Morgan and Belmont and others that so many support the policy of gold-monometalism. We call attention to the railroads, but it is not only upon them that they have fastened their clutches. They have acted in the same manner towards other corporations and private individuals, and now, to cap the climax, have forced Mr. Cleveland to take the first step towards placing this great country in their power.

#### DOLLARS AND YARDSTICKS.

THE function performed by gold as a measure of value (or, more properly, price) appears to be so little understood by some persons that it may be worth while to refer again to the deceptive nature of the analogy, declared by gold-monometallists to exist, between the dollar and the yardstick as measures. In truth no such analogy can be really discovered. The yardstick is a measure of length, and its quality in that respect is absolutely fixed. No variation of any kind in the length of a legal yard has occurred for hundreds of years or can occur without the sanction of the governments which maintain that measure. If a yardstick should be placed in an exhausted receiver it would not expand or diminish to the extent of a millionth part of an inch in a thousand years. The man who now buys one yard of muslin gets the same length of muslin precisely that he would have received in 1795 or 1695. A debt contracted during George Washington's administration, and made payable in the administration of Grover Cleveland in woolen cloth of certain fineness, would require now exactly what both the creditor and debtor agreed upon one hundred years ago. The yardstick, therefore, stands for certainty, so far as measures of length are concerned. Every man knows what it calls for, and what it will call for, at any time in the future. It has no fluctuations, no variations, no instability or shiftiness of any kind.

Gold is a commodity as well as a measure of value (or of price). As a measure of value its function is positively affected by the quantity in existence or within reach. The available quantity of gold, under the gold standard, actually determines the prices of all salable commodities. The quantity that is available may be changed by a variety of influences. There is a large and constant consumption of gold in the arts. Some authorities insist that the total present annual product of the metal, or its equivalent, is used in the arts. If this be true, the commerce of the world is expanding, while the mass of gold which serves as a measure obtains no enlargement of its dimensions. With such conditions, prices must fall, although the measuring power of gold undergoes no change of quantity. Surely nobody will be so absurd as to claim that the measuring power of a yardstick is affected in a similar manner.

The power of gold as a measure is also influenced by natural conditions. When the gold of California was discovered and the supply of the metal was greatly increased, prices of all kinds rose. Were half the gold in the world exterminated to-morrow, prices would instantly fall below any level yet reached. Were the existing stock of gold suddenly doubled, prices would at once rise. It is within the power of any man to whittle out a yardstick with a jackknife. But whether he shall whittle or shall not whittle, the length designated by yardsticks remains the same. It is within no man's power to determine whether the world's stock of gold shall be enlarged or diminished or shall remain unchanged. The business of getting gold is a haphazard one. It is a game of chance. Nobody can be sure that we shall not find millions of tons of new gold somewhere before April 1st next. Nobody can be sure that all the known sources of gold supply will not fail before March is out. What can be the result of this uncertainty respecting the quantity of a metal which measures things by its quantity but that there should be also uncertainty respecting the values or prices by such means determined?

Gold, as a measure of value (or of price), may also be influenced in its performance of that service by legislation. So, indeed, may a yardstick. As a matter of fact, however, the length of the yardstick, never yet changed, will not be changed; and, if it should be, everybody would know it and nobody could be injured by it. The value of the gold dollar can be and has been changed by legislative enactment. The quantity of gold in an American dollar has been changed twice within the present century by acts of Congress. The value, or the purchasing power, or the measuring

power (whichever you choose to call it), was increased by another act of Congress in 1873, which overthrew the double standard and compelled the work of measuring values, heretofore done by two precious metals, to be done by one of them. The effect of that proceeding was precisely the same as if the available quantity of gold should now be reduced one-half. The work of measuring, or fixing values, had been done prior to 1873 by gold and silver conjointly. Thus the whole mass of standard metallic money indicated the price of the whole mass of salable commodities. When one-half the standard money was cast aside, inevitably the purchasing power of the remaining metal was increased, or, to state the fact differently, more commodities were required to buy a dollar. It would be quite impossible, we think, for anyone to conceive of any change in a yardstick which would produce similar consequences. Even to enact that eighteen inches should form one yard would not be an analogous action, for the reason that the yardstick can measure only a few things and nobody with his eyes open could be deceived respecting the change. Whereas, gold measures all things bought and sold, and the change in the money standards was done so secretly that few persons knew of it, while the method of the operation of the metal in measuring values is so subtle that millions of people do not understand it even when it is explained to them.

The purpose for which comparison of the gold dollar with the yardstick is made is to deceive these very people. They do understand that a shortened yardstick may be fraudulent; and they are asked to believe that bimetallists want a shortened dollar. The truth is that the rejection of silver was procured for purposes of robbery, compared with which the reduction in the interest of the seller of every yardstick and bushel measure and measure of weight throughout the world would be of insignificant importance to buyers.

#### THE MISTAKES OF REFORM.

THE failure of the Municipal League to effect any change in the composition of the Councils is a matter which good citizens generally will regret. The regret is not weakened by any gross blunders in the conduct of the campaign against the men they tried to defeat. They did not attempt a sweeping onslaught upon members of the Councils generally. They sought to discriminate between the men the public could trust and the men whom it is not uncharitable to pronounce unworthy of that trust. They fought the latter on this record simply, and tried to bring home to the voters the necessity for putting in an altogether different class of men.

That they failed was due largely to the political temper of the time. In the last three years a great change has come over the voters of the country, which is the result, not of persuasion or political management, but of the harsh lessons of experience. A multitude of voters have reached the conclusion that they were grossly misled in 1892, and they resent the misleading with actual bitterness. They were promised a prosperity combined of high wages and low prices, and they find that wages have fallen as fast as prices, employment for labor has shrunk, and their condition is worse than they ever have known it. It is not necessary to ascribe all this to the tariff to see that they are justified in their anger against the Free-traders. The folly and even wickedness of the latter was in holding out golden vistas to the laboring classes, in order to secure their votes for a policy which could secure no such results, and which could not guard them against the most ordinary ups and downs of the labor market. To carry their point they stopped at nothing in the way of promises and assurances, while they labored to incite the workingman to envy, hatred, malice and all uncharitableness against the capitalist. Is it wonderful that the hatred they tried to arouse is turned against themselves—that Democratic candidates, however excellent, are turned down mercilessly?

It is not a good year either for Democrats, or for reformers who appeal to Democratic support, against regular Republican candidates. But even this year is not without its lessons for reformers.

The first lesson is to put the issues of reform more squarely on moral grounds. It is unfortunate for reform that it naturally falls into the hands of the taxpayers and property-owners of the city, who seem disposed to identify offenses against their interests with offenses against the Commandments. Thus for a long time the trolley lines were treated as an appanage of Beelzebub, because the people whose houses they were to pass regarded them as a nuisance, and likely to lower the value of property. It is not improbable that votes for the passage of the Trolley ordinances were bought and paid for. But it was not equally clear that to vote for these ordinances was a political crime. Experience shows they are a great gain to the city. The outcry against them has ceased almost entirely. It is not impossible that members of Councils, who had seen their operations in other cities, had a prevision of their usefulness and popularity. Yet for months together, in some of our newspapers, there was an evident purpose to pillory every man who voted for a Trolley ordinance as a confessed scoundrel.

This brings us to the second point, that reform cannot accomplish much while it is in the hands of a class to which the majority of the voters do not belong. It is the task of the reformers to enlist the workingman who does not own his home, who is a lodger, in fact. A close examination of the voting lists in one of our wards shows that an actual majority of the votes is cast by young men living in lodgings—clerks, artisans, and the like. These men naturally will follow leaders of their own class, rather than prosperous shopkeepers and mill owners, whose interests and point of view are quite different from their own. There are men among them who could be secured as co-operators in the reformation of politics. The party machine is strong with them, because it makes much of other leaders, whom it can bend to its own purposes. Reform will not prosper until it can countercheck the machine in that respect.

A final suggestion is that educational methods are better than "revival" methods in the work of reform. At present the work is as good as dormant for the year round, until election approaches, then, at the eleventh hour, come "special services" and "protracted meetings;" and the evangelists of reform speed from hall to hall to stir up the people. The result is both inadequate in quantity and transitory in its reach. It all has to be done over again next year. The stalwart party men are organized in permanent clubs. They are looking after the interests of the machines all the year round. Is it strange that they smile blandly on the spasmodic labors of extemporized committees, all of which have gone to pieces since election day? It is by hard, year-long educational work that the evils of our public life are to be cured.

#### WAS PRESIDENT CLEVELAND PANIC-STRICKEN?

WHILE many of the monometallic papers, both Democratic and Republican, absolutely condemn President Cleveland's costly bond transaction, and while others, following the lead of Senator Sherman, show a disposition to be lenient with the President, finding fault with his action only in that he made a bad bargain, still others praise the President and justify his action on the ground of necessity.

But was there any necessity? We learn that while Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Carlisle were negotiating with the Morgan bond syndicate, Mr. Jordan telephoned them from New York that if the demands for gold continued he would be forced to suspend gold payments in a few days, possibly in twenty-four hours. On receipt of this it is said Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Carlisle hastily closed the negotiation on the costly terms dictated by Messrs. Morgan and Belmont.

The papers that defend President Cleveland lay stress on this message of Mr. Jordan as showing the necessity for immediate action. These same journals further congratulate the President on the success of the negotiation, inasmuch that just as soon as the contract was signed the run on the New York Sub-Treasury for gold ceased.

But what does this prove? It points to one thing: the men who forced Mr. Cleveland into this shameful bargain were the same men who were withdrawing the gold; not because they had any need for it, but because they wished to frighten Mr. Cleveland.

Mr. Cleveland was panic-stricken. Wedded to gold payments, he saw no other remedy. He was paying out gold with one hand, not to meet the needs of ordinary business transactions, but to meet the demands of bankers who were making an artificial demand, with the purpose of frightening him into another bond issue, the most costly of them all. As Mr. Cleveland would continue to meet these artificial demands to pay gold, he was forced to buy gold.

If the President could have taken a broad view of the situation, if his mind had not been narrowed by his attachment to the gold-monometallic theory, he would not have acted as he did. He would have seen (as many others see whose advice he will not heed, but instead puts aside as advice coming from wreckers of our credit,) that the real, the only permanent way by which we can continue gold payments, was not the costly plan of buying gold, but by the simple method of redeeming the obligations of the government in silver when presented by those who make an artificial demand for gold. If, when Mr. Cleveland received the message from Mr. Jordan, he had not signed the contract giving \$9,000,000 or more to the syndicate as commission, but had said to these same men (to borrow the words of Senator Teller), "Gentlemen, this run upon the Treasury for gold must be stopped, and I propose to stop it by paying every demand hereafter in silver, and if you think you can create a panic with profit to yourselves, you can go on and create it,"—does anyone believe these bankers would have continued to present obligations of the government for redemption? Does anyone believe these same men who have most to lose would have precipitated a panic? There would have been no panic, gold payments would not have been suspended, and a costly addition to our debt would have been avoided.

We do not call Mr. Cleveland's motives in question, but the most charitable view we can take of him is that he was panic-stricken; "bungoed," as the *New York World* puts it, by the Morgan syndicate.

#### OVERPRODUCTION.

THOSE who declare that the demonetization of silver has nothing to do with the prevailing "hard times" can no longer take refuge under the assertion that the present depression, if any, is only temporary, and that there is no unusual distress. The distress is too apparent, too great and too lasting to be longer ignored or denied by the gold-monometallists. They are forced to advance a reason for it. How, then, do they explain the enforced idleness and resulting poverty and unrest that exists in a country with unlimited natural resources, with hundreds of thousands of unemployed men and millions of dollars of idle capital, where there is no lack of a disposition on the part of the owners of unemployed capital to secure a return for its use, and where the thousands of idle men are willing and anxious to work?

*Overproduction* is the cause, says one; *Under-consumption*, chimes another. High-sounding phrases, surely; but both resting on absurdities. Do our gold-monometallic friends, when they advance these theories, forget that all producers are also consumers, that men produce only what they desire to consume? Do they believe that man's desires will ever be completely satisfied? Do they not know that as soon as one want is satisfied man will

have another? Did they ever know a community which could not consume more than it did? The limit of consumption has never been reached, and it never will be. There can be a partial overproduction of one article or one kind of goods, of course, but overproduction of everything at one time is an impossibility.

But what an absurdity it is on the face of it to cry Overproduction when thousands are starving for want of food, when thousands of others are freezing for lack of clothing, and when many have no home to shelter them. Too much food, too much clothing, too many houses, indeed! Are these the causes of our distress? The most hardened monometallist who cries Overproduction, as he cries Dishonest dollar, endeavoring to mislead the people by high-sounding phrases, will hardly dare to answer this question in the affirmative when placed in this its true meaning. Yet when he cries Overproduction this is what he says.

The leaders of the gold-monometallic party know well enough the cause of the distress. But to continue the depression of prices, thus enhancing the value of the money paid them in settlement of debts by their despairing debtors, they must continue to mislead the people. Hence the cry Overproduction, a phrase without foundation, but which they support by asking, Do not the stores of iron, cotton and woolen goods, etc., which, although reduced in price, are unsalable, show overproduction? They show nothing of the kind. These stores of unsold goods are the result of a contracted supply of money resulting in a depression of prices that has made it impossible for would-be consumers, who are also producers, to dispose of their own product at prices which will enable them to purchase the articles which they need. The contraction of the money of the world has made exchanges so difficult, has made the medium by which they must be accomplished, money, so costly, and made the struggle to obtain it so severe, that the middleman, the owner of money, absorbs all the profit which the producer should receive from his product, thus leaving him without the means to purchase those things which he wants. Thus the producer's demands as a consumer are limited or stopped and, as his industry brings him no result, incentive to further production is destroyed. The reason that mills and factories are closed or running on part time, that stores of goods remain undisposed of while at the same time those who should consume these goods are suffering for their want, is that the owners of money, by making it scarce, have caused a fall in prices which enables them to obtain such a large share of the surplus product of labor that the producer can be only a consumer to a small extent, and as he does not realize the expected advantages from his industry he has no incentive to further production. The middlemen, the creditors of the world, are getting the surplus product of the producers.

#### WOMAN'S WAYS.

ONE-THIRD of the females of France are farm laborers.

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Queen Victoria has never entered a shop since the death of the Prince Consort.

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At one of the fancy dress balls in London, the other night, a little dancer appeared costumed as an animated wedding cake. Everybody agreed that the masquerader was quite "sweet enough to eat."

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A school of practical telegraphy for young women has been opened at Comayagua, Honduras, under the direction of Senorita Margarita Alcerro.

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The *Michigan Christian Advocate* says: Because she is so well versed in parliamentary usage, legislative phraseology, and missionary lore, and because she is so quick and ready in debate, Miss Franc Baker has been styled "the Dr. Buckley of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society."

Sara Bernhardt has bought a square and massive tower on Belle Isle in the Bay of Biscay, which will be transformed into a castle. She discovered the place last summer while passing her vacation in Brittany. She will make the castle her refuge during the intervals of rest from her profession.

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The Empress of Austria's love of walking arouses general curiosity during her present stay at Cape Martin. On her way from Algiers she stopped at Marseilles, where she requested that no official notice should be taken of her arrival, but that some quiet, steady workingman should be in waiting to show her over the busiest quarters of the town. A policeman was accordingly dressed up to maintain the character.

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"While it is true that women have only secured full suffrage in two States, they have secured partial or local suffrage in more than 10,000 communities. The only difference that remains, the last surviving relic of the age when woman was chattel property and was the savage slave of a still more savage lord, remains to be wiped away. When this is done, for the first time in the world we will have perfect liberty and perfect equality."—*Susan B. Anthony.*

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How to sit down gracefully in one's skirt has become almost as much of a problem as it used to be to our grandmothers when they had that unruly hoopskirt to manage. After all, if one's skirt stands out so decidedly from one's feet it makes very little difference what stiffens it. In some respects the wire skirt has advantages over the haircloth skirt. In the first place it is not so heavy, and that is a great consideration when it is skirts that are in question.

Another objection to haircloth, aside from its weight, is its tendency to torture the wearer with the sharp ends of hair which creep out in spite of the care of the dressmaker. Nevertheless, we are wearing more and more of it every day.

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Canrobert's first meeting with his wife was interesting. It was at a ball in the Tuilleries, where the lady, seeing the Marshal enter, went up to him and playfully asked him to consider her a Russian and take her out for the first dance. Though fond of the ladies Canrobert did not dance, and he answered: "Impossible, mademoiselle! I do not dance, and we are at peace with the Russians now." Then, turning to a lieutenant of the guards, he said: "Here, young man, take mademoiselle for your partner and remember that a Marshal of France has this night envied the good fortune of a sub-lieutenant." A few months later the Marshal and the lady, Flora de Macdonald, were married.

[FOR THE AMERICAN]  
THE CORN PONE.

**T**HREE'S magic work soon to be wrought  
Within the kitchen, swept and clean,  
Where firewood ere the dark was brought;  
What do those busy movements mean?

A warm fire in the chimney burns  
Of hick'ry, which sends forth a blaze.  
Martha sits near and butter churns,  
And Henry on the fiddle plays.

Fresh logs are thrown on coals grown red;  
They make a noisy, crackling sound;  
Forth from the hearth a flame is shed  
That lights up objects all around.

Martha has made the butter come,  
And Henry has laid his fiddle down;  
The spider,\* full of rich corn pone,  
Is on the coals, and in them bound,

Heaped up until they've covered o'er  
The vessel held in their embrace.  
While the fierce flames mount up and roar,  
Fresh coals supply the dead ones' place.

In time the spider cool becomes;  
The lid removed presents to view  
The sweetest bread that country homes  
In past or present ever knew.

WILLIAM M. MARINE.

\* The spider is an oven, spider-shaped, in which corn cake and a wheaten bread called spider bread were cooked in the good old times.

## OPEN DOORS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

### WAKE UP, EASTERN VOTERS!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN.

Dear Sir: The division in the House of Representatives on February 14th, when the gold bond scheme of the government was defeated by 167 votes to 120, is very instructive. An analysis of the vote shows that eighty-nine Democrats and thirty-one Republicans voted in favor of the resolution, while ninety-eight Democrats, sixty-two Republicans and seven Populists voted against. The minority consisted almost entirely of the Republican and Democratic representatives of Eastern States and servile Democratic supporters of the administration, while the majority consisted almost entirely of representatives of all political parties from the Middle, Western and Southern States.

Why is it that the Eastern States continue to send representatives to both branches of Congress in favor of the single gold standard? Are they not equally interested in a wise and satisfactory bimetallic solution and termination of the present deplorable condition of the national financial and currency questions? Let us see.

First. The Eastern States *par excellence* are manufacturing States, depending very largely for their market on the rest of the country, especially the purely agricultural and mining States. It is self-evident that the greater the prosperity and the purchasing power and consuming capacity of the rest of the country, the more business there is for the factories of the East. So, also, the more the prosperity of the remainder of the country is destroyed and its purchasing power crippled or reduced, the less business there is for the factories of the East.

The demonetization of silver in 1873 and since has, beyond a shadow of doubt, enhanced the purchasing power of gold and depreciated the gold value of all staple commodities, such as corn, cotton, wheat, wool, etc. This is not merely the case in America alone, but in all gold standard countries. Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs, ex-Governor of the Bank of England, speaking of Great Britain, says:

"Agriculture is at the lowest ebb that has ever been seen by living man. All silver-using countries can send their produce here and receiving the same amount of silver money, which to them is not depreciated, for one sovereign as they did heretofore for two sovereigns, can prosper themselves and starve our farmers."

Europe was a great consumer of American agricultural products, but the American farmer can now only get into the European market at ruinously low prices, which in turn control or affect the prices in America. At the present prices of the staple commodities in America, the purchasing power of the producers thereof is fearfully curtailed, and such limited capacity, in turn, necessarily directly and injuriously affects the manufacturing industries of the Eastern States, which as a consequence are also depressed and stagnant. In many cases, the wage-earning classes of the great cotton, corn, wheat and wool States, especially in the cities, have been growing poorer all the time. They are out of employment and have used up first their savings and next their credit and now they are pawning what they can spare, if it is worth anything, in the hope that they can tide this time over. As to the middle classes of those States, the business and professional men, they also are growing poorer every month, and there was never a time since the war that more rigid economy was practised in making useable and wearable articles last, by care, mending and cleaning, beyond their natural term, as has been the case during the last few years. Everybody is hanging on the best he can until matters improve.

In the aggregate this condition of affairs west of the Alleghenies means very many millions of dollars per annum less business for Eastern factories. The people who formerly were heavy customers of the Eastern factories simply have not now the

wherewithal to purchase; there is not enough money in circulation, and large capitalists, for lack of profitable investments, cease investing and allow their capital to accumulate and lie idle.

*Second.* The Eastern States have invested hundreds of millions of dollars west of the Alleghanies, and more particularly west of the Mississippi, in railroads, farm and other mortgages, real estate, and other ways. In many cases such investments represent the savings of a lifetime, or capital inherited, on the income from which the investors depend for a living. The continued and increasing depression and falling prices in the Middle and Western States, following the demonetization of silver, have sent the railroads into the hands of receivers, have rendered farmers and other borrowers utterly unable to pay the interest on loans and have reduced the value of real estate, no matter how carefully selected or choice, from forty to fifty per cent., with still no buyers. No matter how conservative the loans made six or seven years ago, thousands of mortgagors stand ready to-day to surrender the real estate security for the face value of the incumbrance, the margin or equity having disappeared. There is practically not a mortgage or loan agency to-day that is not carrying comparatively large numbers of overdue loans, with accumulating arrears of interest, and even paying the taxes to keep the title clear. The borrowers are industrious, enterprising men of integrity, rendered absolutely helpless at present by the tidal wave of shrinkage of gold values and depression which has swept the country, ruining hundreds of thousands. At sheriffs' sales there are few buyers, even at the amount of the incumbrance. Everything waits until the Eastern States wake up to the fact that the single gold standard is killing the goose that laid for them the golden egg.

Briefly summed up, the single gold standard policy, hitherto favored by the Eastern States, has shrunk the values of all kinds of property and commodities except gold, has seriously reduced the purchasing power of their customers west of the Alleghanies, has destroyed the ability of debtors in the Middle and Western States to pay even the interest due to Eastern creditors, to say nothing of repayment of loans, has reduced the value of other Eastern investments in the Middle and Western States from forty to fifty per cent., and has therefore inflicted untold loss on Eastern interests; in fact, the Eastern States have already been injured by the insane single gold standard delusion to an extent they do not yet begin to realize.

Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs, before quoted, referring to the gold-monometallists of England, says :

"It is beginning to dawn even upon their minds that it is better to be even paid in silver than not to be paid at all; and that our silver debtors do not pay, because they see that remittances, whether of silver or goods, such as formerly sufficed to pay their debts, pay now but half; and that our gold debtors (enjoying the blessings (?) of a gold standard) are in like case, so far as that to pay a given sum, they have to sell two pounds of products now, when one would formerly have sufficed."

Let the voters of the Eastern States, ignoring the subsidized editorials of the Eastern press, study the financial and currency questions for themselves with unprejudiced minds, and they will then soon say to those of their representatives in Congress who vote for such measures as Cleveland's gold bond scheme: "We want and insist upon having bimetallism, and if you do not assist the representatives from the Western and Southern States in giving it to us, we will at the very first opportunity knock your political brains out."

THOMAS TONGE.

Dehver, Colorado.

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#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN.

Dear Sir: The question is asked, "Who is the statesman capable of bringing forth a financial measure that shall be satisfactory to both the gold and silver elements?"

The question is easily answered. No man exists who can

harmonize these conflicting elements. It is an irrepressible conflict. Silver-monometallism would be as bad as gold-monometallism, for the success of either would destroy one-half of the money of the world, and make it only a commodity. If wheat, cotton, iron, wool and other products of agriculture and manufactures; if commercial enterprise in every direction, and above all *labor* in all its ramifications, are to be circumscribed by the withdrawal of half the money of the world from use, it is clear that prices must fall and chaos come, for the earning power of the nation would be inadequate to meet existing obligations, contracted when both gold and silver were the money of the world. There was no trouble about business and payments since this government was established, until we submitted to the command of England and demonetized silver in 1873. The purpose of England was concealed until we were flooded with foreign capital and until many enterprises were stimulated, and then, at the appointed moment, the money power of Europe uncovered their design and demanded gold for all payments. Our railroads are one after another going into bankruptcy, our factories are closing, agriculture is blighted, farms are passing into the Sheriff's hands, and labor is out of employment. What a picture! Yet all know that it is true.

Now for the cause. The allies of England in this country have destroyed our protective system, and monometallists have destroyed half our money. I will now suggest the only remedy: restore protection to American industries, and without delay re-establish bimetallism. The statesman who will lead to that result will be the next President of the United States. The people will back such a man the country over, and bid defiance to England and the money powers of Europe and their alien supporters in America. Let us be American, and declare our independence. We were able to manifest our strength in the Revolutionary war and in the war of 1812. Our non-importation laws and embargoes brought England to terms once, and now take the markets of the United States away from England and she will soon get over her *goldbug*, *humbug* notions, and ask once more to be let in to partake of the milk and honey of this great nation.

A BUSINESS MAN.

February 27th, 1895.

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#### AN OBJECT-LESSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN.

Dear Sir: The last official census of the United States declares its aggregate assessable property, subject to taxation, to surpass in value sixty-five thousand millions of dollars (\$65,000,000,000). This is an average of a thousand dollars for every man, woman and child. As regards opulence, therefore, we stand in the front rank of civilized nations! In addition to the foregoing, our unassessed mineral wealth of coal, iron, oil and precious metals is almost infinite and virtually transcends computation. A few years ago all this ocean of wealth enjoyed exceptionally favorable opportunities for exploitation and development. At present those opportunities have vanished, whilst more than two millions of industrial operatives (thrown out of employment) are languishing in enforced idleness. With such antecedents, such a cataclysm implies the existence and action of potential adversary forces unfamiliar to the experience, and difficult of comprehension by the public mind. For their explication recourse must be had to the principles of political economy.

That science demonstrates that the wealth of nations is the immediate product of human labor, and that the working classes are its exclusive originators and artificers! Any blows, therefore, struck at a nation's industries, are aimed at the very source and citadel of its prosperity. This was strikingly illustrated by the revocation by France of the edict of Nantes, whereby nearly fifty thousand Protestant Huguenots—her most experienced operatives—were banished to England, to the fatal impoverishment of France, but rendering England thereafter "the workshop of the world," and the most opulent of nations!

It is, accordingly, the interest, as well as the paramount duty, of all governments to foster the welfare of their laboring classes, and, at least, to guard their wealth-producing avocations against interruption or disturbance. The gloomy outlook which now environs us is darkened and deepened by the language of President Cleveland in a late message to Congress, which declared that in his future policy he would absolutely renounce "Paternalism." In other words, instead of being the Father of the People, by fostering their national industries and protecting them against adversary influences, whether foreign or domestic, they must take care of themselves, and that he and the Federal Government (imitating France in the case mentioned) would do the same! If this meant nothing more than a menace of neutrality and indifference, it was, nevertheless, a sinister ukase against the people. Unhappily, it meant far more, and, construed by the subsequent legislation he has urged upon Congress, amounted to a declaration of war upon our laboring population. This is rendered even more apparent from his policy touching our national finances, which has been a wanton and flagrant warfare upon all American industries, as a necessary and natural concomitant of anti-paternalism.

If, in the entire realm of fiscal science, there is a single proposition which enjoys the unanimous indorsement of all financial authorities, it is that which announces the effect of an increase or decrease of the national money volume. It matters not what may be the nature of that money—whether gold, silver, paper, or any combination of them. Its increase will elevate, and its decrease depress wages and general prices. No other proposition can accomplish such ominous results. An object-lesson of this truth is now before us. In 1873, when silver was demonetized, our national money volume amounted to fifty-five dollars per capita. It is now barely twenty-three! The symptomatic consequences of such a dire transition are upon us. Agricultural land has fallen to one-third its former value. Wheat, cotton and other products have also fearfully declined. Our farmers, who constitute nearly two-thirds of our gross population, are virtually poverty-stricken. From the same cause manufacturers and merchants have been ruined. The bankruptcies during the last two decades far surpass a thousand millions of dollars. This colossal ruin is not the work of blundering ignorance. It is the consequence of astute villainy, practised upon a scale of greater magnificence than was ever before known in the history of nations. The most abounding charity can ascribe it to no other cause.

HAMLET.

Philadelphia, February 27th.

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#### THE DISHONEST DOLLAR.

##### PART II.

To THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN.

Dear Sir: Since the adoption of gold as the only standard of values, the national debts in the aggregate have increased enormously, and the written and printed evidences of such debt, in the hands of the capitalist, have enabled them to secure such legislation as to double the value of the debt to the creditor, and for the same reason and by the same action increased the burden of the debt by increasing the difficulty of payment. This very thing has been done by the goldbugs of Europe and America to the national debt of the United States, and the individual debt everywhere.

Wall Street dictates the financial legislation of this country and protects its own interest at the expense of the people.

This kind of legislation may do for the kingdoms of Europe, where royalty sits in golden ease, but our government was founded on the greatest good to the greatest number. It never was intended by the "Constitutional Fathers" that the national legislation of this country should so shape itself as to make the great mass of people do yeoman service to gold owners on Wall Street. Congress and the "Executive" seem to be their pliant tools.

King Gold and King Caucus have united to hold their dominion fast on the backs of this people.

Can we emancipate ourselves? If we do, it will be by downing both kings together.

But let us briefly consider their argument in detail.

"Civilized nations have adopted it."

Well, suppose they have. What, if anything, have they gained by doing so? Doubled their own liabilities for the sole benefit of a few individuals who were not needy, and who were in no way entitled to special favors at the hands of the lawmaking power, and increased the burdens of the subject. Royalty never pays its own debts; the industrious citizen pays them all.

The real question is not Have other nations adopted gold? but Has such action benefited them as a nation? Are they any better off as a people? Has their burden increased or decreased? Are the people making a living any easier. Have they better food to eat or clothes to wear? Has it shortened the hours of labor, or reduced the number of the poor? If it has done none of these things, then it is a foolish act, and a wise nation that cares for its people will reconsider a foolish action.

If the nations of Europe have gone deep in legislative infamy, and worked great injury to their subjects, by adding to their burdens, for the benefit of a few rich men, is that any reason why our nation, which is a government "for the people," should follow their bad example?

I thought we had undertaken to show a better way to govern than that of oppression.

"But then we would be at a disadvantage in trade." Let us see. England trades very largely with us, with South America, China and India. Does she, as a rule, use gold or silver in that trade? Do they pay the farmers of this country in gold, or do we take other commodities in exchange? Only the balance in trade is paid in gold, and usually our exports exceed our imports, and we sell them both silver and gold beside.

It takes two to make a bargain, and Jonathan is considered a fair hand at a trade. Would it not be fair to consider that our people will trade only where and when the bargain is as good for them as the other fellow? Let us remember it is the hungry that have to buy. We are not a starving people, and if we have to buy, and have only silver to pay, why should that fact hurt the goldbugs? It will be time enough for them to squeal when the farmer complains.

"But they will dump their silver on us." Let them dump. It will take a "right smart" dumping to discourage the average farmer of this country. It may disgust the goldbug. I expect it would, as "Shylock's" occupation, would not be as profitable as before.

Silver is the money that England, France and Germany use to trade with South America, China and India, and is in daily use as currency among the people in those countries, as it is in Italy, Spain and France almost exclusively. How will those people get along if all their silver is sent over to us? They would have to call on us for silver then as they do now. They are taking our silver now, glad to get it, and have to have it. The only difference would be that they would have to pay more for it, and in consequence we would get more for it. But how would that hurt us? Oh, yes! the goldite, it might hurt him. Well, that "ain't our funeral."

But then we want an *honest dollar*, says one. Certainly we do. And what is an honest dollar?

It is any dollar that is, and will do, *just what* it purports or promises to do on its face. The silver dollar says on its face that it is a dollar, and that it is a fair equivalent for a dollar's worth of goods. And it further says if Congress will repeal its unjust law that robbed me of my just right of coinage, I will fight my own battle, cease to be a burden to the government, and continue in the future, as in the past, to pay a dollar's worth of debt, and be as much value to the wage-earner as though I were gold.

If silver be dishonest, it is because it has been deprived of a part of its value by unfriendly legislation. One might as well scatter the seeds of a contagious disease, and then complain of the results.

Silver is as honest as gold, and neither of them more honest than its fellow. Nor are they more honest or useful than the black coal. Each is God's gift to man, and are more honest than the people who use them for unjust purposes.

But, says another, silver bullion is only worth about half its face value as coined. Measured in gold, true; but what would it have been worth if its owners could have it coined at will, as the gold owner can? You limit the coinage of gold to one-half the annual product of the mines of this country; take away its legal-tender quality for the payment of government bonds; have free coinage of silver, and it a full legal tender in fact as well as in theory, and then see which is the honest dollar.

If the legal conditions of the two metals were exchanged, silver bullion would soon be worth its coined value.

But, they say, the free coinage of silver would only help a few individuals who own silver mines, and would be of no benefit to the great mass of people. Such an argument, if good for anything, is just as good against the free coinage of gold or any other metal. The profit of mine owners has never been considered a factor in the provision of law for free coinage. But if the argument that the people would receive no benefit is to be considered, it must fail. The scarcity of money makes the price of all other commodities low: it increases the burden of debt, because it is harder to pay that debt. When grain is scarce, a corner can be worked on grain; when money is scarce, a corner can be worked on money; every producer, and the wage-earner, are losers by a scarcity of currency or, as they say, a "tight money market."

The American people are not benefited as a people by legislation to help a lot of usurious schemers to corner the money market. The members who voted to depreciate silver by limiting its coinage were voting against the interests of the people who sent them to Congress.

The measure was sneaked through like a deed of darkness, a trick of the sharp lobbyist, and one that succeeding Congressmen have acquiesced in to their shame.

But it seems gold can and does leave the country even if silver be not coined.

And John Sherman is now whining in the Senate to the silver men for concessions which never would have been necessary but for his little act of 1873. The people, says he, have plenty of money, and mentions the \$1,600,900,000 in small savings in the savings banks. "Give the plain people—the laboring people—a chance to meet the emergency," he cries. But, John, those little savings are the fruits of honest toil, paid for in the money you have worked so hard to discredit.

Of course, we are in trouble. We have put a burden on the government it never should have assumed. Having maimed silver, the government struggles to carry a burden self-imposed and entirely the result of its own foolish work. We must now return to sound and safe principles of finance. Quit cornering our own Treasury for the benefit of a few men whose God is their money bags.

Indignant as the people are, no one desires the business of this country ruined because of hasty or ill-considered action, but a return in the direction of free coinage of silver as quickly as safety will permit.

And such legislation as may be necessary for that purpose should consider the farmer and merchant as well as the money changer, the wage-earner as well as the capitalist.

I believe the "Barker plan," as published in THE AMERICAN, would be in the right direction, having both the elements of conservatism and success.

Give the voters a show to vote a ticket that means protection to American industries and a restoration of silver to its rightful place by the side of gold as a measure of values.

Goodland, Newton County, Ind.

W.M. W. GILMAN.

#### WASHINGTON LETTER.

[FOR THE AMERICAN.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 26, 1895.

THE Fifty-third Congress has just rounded the turn for the homestretch. The mad race of measures is on. Whip and spur are being freshly applied. Seventy millions of people are watching the finish. When the hands of the clock shall point to high noon on March 4th, it will not be a matter of congratulation to the American people that this or that measure has been defeated or enacted into law, but the cause of congratulation and public manifestation will be that the end of the Fifty-third Congress is recorded.

The legislation of the week has been without incident, so far as the currency or coinage question has entered into it. Public criticism has centered largely in the speech of Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, delivered a week ago. This speech, coming from a man whose interests are wholly identified with New England, is of great importance, for it favors bimetallism in the most outspoken form. This speech is the most acceptable to the American people on the question of bimetallism, coming as it does from a New Englander, where the gold standard has its strongest champions. The effects of Senator Chandler's words will be far-reaching in the future in molding public sentiment throughout the Central States and the great West. It has already borne fruit in the national capital, as well as in both houses of Congress, for very many public men whose opinions seem to be in doubt are now freely talking in favor of the use of silver without waiting the action of an international monetary conference.

The defeat of Senator Dolph, of Oregon, for re-election is perhaps one of the most significant events of the week. It was believed when the Oregon election occurred in June last that the people were committed to the principles enunciated by Senator Dolph on the floor of the Senate, but the developments of the last six weeks have proven conclusively that Oregon does not propose to enroll herself among the States favoring gold-monometallism. The colleagues of Senator Dolph are outspoken on this question, and it is not denied that his defeat is wholly attributable to his antagonism to silver during the first and second sessions of the Fifty-third Congress.

The possibilities of an international bimetallic conference in the near future is causing considerable comment in both houses of Congress among the members in private conversation. The action of Germany is the foundation for this agitation, but a further fact is seen in the movement of the India Mint, as it is already understood that dies are being prepared at her Majesty's Mint, in England, for a British dollar to be used at Bombay for the East India trade. Mention has been made of the fact that Mexico has been keeping her money at home by reason of the extension of her trade, while the mints of Japan are crowded with the coinage of her own money, leaving the India trade absolutely in need of silver coin with which to carry on her traffic. These facts are brought out here in such a way as to make prominent the belief that an international conference is already in sight, and that England will be compelled to concede at least a favorable hearing to the friends of the white metal. The amendment to the Sundry Civil bill pending in the Senate, which carries an appropriation providing for the expense of our representatives to an international conference, will not be considered before to-morrow, and therefore it is impossible to predict what final action will be had.

The late bond issue continues to be the chief topic of discussion among public men. It is remarkable the change of sentiment that has taken place in the last few days. Very many Western Republicans who voted in the House against the gold bond were surprised at the criticisms of the home papers, notably the Ohio delegation, which voted solidly against the bond issue; but today they are congratulating themselves that they were not

mistaken when they cast their votes against the ill-begotten scheme of President Cleveland. The people are coming to their defense. They are being flooded with letters of congratulation over the stand taken for the principles of American credit, based on coin.

General Grosvenor, of Ohio, is quoted as saying: "I have visited five counties of my district and have met men in all ranks of life, and conversed freely with them about the action of the Republican party in the House in opposing the gold bond scheme of Rothschild, Cleveland & Co. Without exception, every man indorsed the action of the two-thirds majority by which the Republicans in the House defeated the English scheme to damage our outstanding securities. In my mail here I find over one hundred letters from more than ten States, and from ten Congressional districts in Ohio, commending the action of the Republicans in the House."

In conversation with most of the Representatives of all the great Western papers in the national capital, we find but one sentiment, namely, condemnation of the attempted purpose of the administration and commendation of the stand taken by the Republicans to defeat it.

Much speculation has been indulged in to-day and this evening touching the fate of Mr. Gorman's amendment, which is to be considered with the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, limiting the power of the Secretary of the Treasury to further issue bonds. It was decided late this afternoon that this amendment will go over until to-morrow, and may occupy the greater portion of the day.

FARMER JONES.

#### OUR LETTER FROM PARIS.

PARIS, February 15, 1895.

**I**N the course of the debates on the French Budget bill, one detail has attracted especial attention: the tax returns of January, 1895, are less than the government estimate for the current year by 360,000 francs and inferior by 21,449,700 francs to those for the same period in 1894. These figures, which are official, are eloquent and inspire legitimate apprehensions of the imminence of a colossal financial crisis.

The prohibitory tariff has been followed by disastrous consequences. The natural reprisals of other governments have well-nigh closed all the foreign markets to French products and, by destroying the equilibrium between supply and demand, manufacturers, unable to get rid of their old stocks, cease or restrict their operations, and, as a consequence, commercial transactions are reduced to a minimum. Not that there is any real absence of capital in France, but legitimate investments, such as government securities and railway shares, already far from remunerative, are eschewed, through fear of the threatened revenue tax, and all available money is carried to the Bourse, whose Hebrew potentates float a succession of "wild-cat" schemes and pocket the savings of the gentiles. In connection with this, it is pertinent to note the steadily increasing antipathy among all classes towards the chosen people, of which some representative is inculpated in every recent political or financial scandal. Ex-Captain Dreyfus is a Jew; so is his homonym, the ex-Deputy; so is the revoked General Provincial Treasurer, Isaiah Levaillant, who, as Chief of the Bureau of Public Safety, used his influence with the Magistracy in favor of "his coreligionists of my race, which is the aristocracy of nations"—*vide* his letters to one Schwob. Raynal, also, is an Israelite and a Committee of Inquest is now examining his record with a view to discover whether there be evidence sufficient to warrant the impeachment of that ex-Minister of Public Works, who, while a member of the Cabinet, concluded an onerous and disgraceful arrangement with the South of France railway companies, all of which are directed and virtually owned by other Hebrews. Probably the aforesaid committee will pronounce a *nolle prosequi*, twenty-eight out of its thirty-three members being avowedly opposed to the diffusion of light by

which they personally might be painfully annoyed. These compromises with conscience produce an exasperating effect upon the masses, who are reminded of the remark of a Semitic magnate—Rothschild was accused of it at the time—"In the course of another century no Christian will be able to earn his daily bread except as our servant" (*sic*), and one of these days proletarian wrath will explode all over the Continent. An Anti-Semitic political party is being constituted in France similar to that existing since several years in Germany. It has its organs in the Republican, the Radical and the Conservative press, and on Tuesday last an Anti-Semitic campaign was officially opened in the French Chamber by Deputy Denis, who, explaining that he aimed not at the religion of the Jews, but at their race, qualified as "deleterious and cumbersome," and of which he demanded "neither a general massacre, nor yet the wholesale expulsion from French soil, but simply the absolute future exclusion from all posts of trust or profit under government." The discussion of Mr. Denis' motion was postponed for a month, but the fact that it united nearly two hundred votes in favor of its immediate consideration is symptomatic.

Symptomatic, also, is the apparent evolution in European international politics; the Czar's proposed visit to William II. betokens a renewal of those cordial relations with Germany that were singularly modified during the last years of his father's reign; more significant still is his contemplated excursion to London, where no Russian sovereign has been since Nicholas I. was the guest, at Buckingham Palace, of Queen Victoria in 1844. Possibly the young monarch feels offended by the commentaries of the French press upon the Imperial declarations to the *Zemstvos*. More probably he has been convinced that no genuine support can be expected from a nation whose ministries and legislators are capable of repudiating all engagements not signed and countersigned by themselves. There will be no coolness apparent in diplomatic relations, but Franco-philism, always factitious in Russia, will gradually cool down until the time comes that Germany may judge opportune for another invasion, unless meanwhile something should happen that may make the entire dismemberment of France inexpedient for Muscovite interests. A new grouping of the powers seems imminent, and the probably near dissolution of the British Parliament may be a prelude to important changes in continental policies. The next British Cabinet will be Conservative, and Lord Salisbury's gallophobia is notorious. During his lordship's previous administration a plan for eventual co-operation with Germany, a project was elaborated in Downing Street, and submitted to the Imperial German Chancellory, by which England would be guaranteed, at the next partition of France, all Brittany, and the exclusive possession of the Northern seaboard from Cherbourg to Antwerp. By the granting of Breton fiefs to the great Irish landowners whose properties would be divided among the Irish, properly so-called, the Tory Cabinet expected to disarm the opposition of the Home Rulers, and at the same time to compensate the landlords. The project was ingenuous, but, up to 1892, did not find favor with the Kaiser, who thought that British collaboration asked too high a price for its services. But, in 1892, William II. went to see his royal grandmother at Cowes, and then and there, and thanks to her intervention, a compromise was arranged: Germany was to annex as much of French territory as might suit her; Italy to take Corsica, Nice, Savoy and Provence as far as and inclusive of Marseilles and Toulon; England, Brittany and the Channel ports of Cherbourg, Boulogne, Calais, Havre and Dieppe, while Belgium would be aggrandized by the gift of French Flanders and a section of Normandy, she in return giving free passage through her so-called neutral territory to the German troops. This arrangement was concluded three years ago and only the change of Cabinet and the uncompromising attitude of Alexander III. delayed the execution of the plan. But, even with the Liberals in office, the future

allies have not been idle, and not a week passes where the presence of German and British military spies has not been signaled, along the French coast, from St. Malo to Brest, the sub-Prefect of which last locality, acting under instructions from Paris, going even so far as to forbid all interference, on the part of the military authorities, with the operations of a commission of British officers employed in a technical inspection of the points most favorable to the disembarkation of an expeditionary corps, in the environs of the Baie des Sablons. More recently, Admiral Gervais was bidden to mind his own business, when he proposed the arrest of two German staff officers taken *flagrante delicto* on board of a pleasure yacht sailing under British colors.

These facts—they are indisputable—need no commentary.

Not that Britannia contemplates any act of aggression; she only takes precautionary measures in view of probable contingencies; she will begin to *act* only after the ball has been opened by others, and the presently apparent firebrand is Italy, whose provocations must finally exhaust French patience.

The recall of M. Ressmann failed to cause that of M. Billot, the expected prelude to a definite rupture of diplomatic relations with France; perhaps, in M. Crispi's calculations, the appointment of Count Tomielli as Italian Ambassador to Paris may produce the desired effect. The Count, transferred from London to Paris, has always been distinguished for his intense gallophobia, and it was, thanks to his efforts, that was established the convention by which the British Government guaranteed to Italy the co-operation of the British fleet in the event of a Franco-Italian war. From the Italian point of view, Count Tomielli merits congratulations, but his avowed sentiments of hostility to the French should scarcely be considered as a recommendation for the situation recently conferred to him. M. Ressmann was an excellent diplomatist, but he was of the old school which taught that the main objective of diplomacy was the avoidance of armed conflicts. In short, he was a *persona grata*, because, though firm, he was conciliatory. For that reason he was removed, and as Il Signor Crispi is determined to have a quarrel, he has selected the agent most suitable to foment difficulties.

All these circumstances are ominous of coming troubles, and we repeat what was said in a former letter: Crispi being in the dilemma of a foreign war or a domestic revolution, he will elect for the *ultima ratio regum*. Z.

### TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

*TERSELY TOLD VIEWS OF NEWSPAPERmen ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.  
THERE'S PITH IN THEM.*

#### AGREED TO ADJOURN?

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The President asked Congress to do something, and it did.

\*\*

#### PROSPERITY FOR SOUTHERN PROTECTIONISTS.

Economist.

Less cotton and more sugar grown in the South would be an excellent policy of protection for the farmers to adopt in that section. It would not only enrich themselves, but would extend prosperity to other parts of the country.

\*\*

#### DE MORTUIS, ETC.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

The so-called Democratic majority in the United States Senate is now no more. No flowers; no tears. The country, and the Democratic party especially, can well afford to go without such a Democratic majority as that has been.

\*\*

#### UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

Biblical Recorder.

Can a State Penitentiary be made self-supporting? Can it be self-supporting without harassing citizen laborers? Every State is concerned with these questions; but, so far as we know, not one has settled them satisfactorily.

#### SOUTHERN SAMPLE REFORMERS.

Nashua (N. H.) Telegraph.

The Southern Democrats who were so anxious to reform the pension lists are now to increase the Mexican pensions. Consistency as a jewel has lost none of its rareness by Democratic attempts to exemplify their own teachings.

\*\*

#### NO MORE SNAPS!

Lowell Mail.

The Superintendent of Streets in Boston has given out that there are to be no more snaps in that department, and that workers only will be employed. This is a good reform and might be well inaugurated in other street departments outside of Boston.

\*\*

#### A STARTLING INDORSEMENT.

Saturday Evening Spectator, Minneapolis.

We print in another column, under the caption, "Is There Too Much Money?" an article from the Philadelphia AMERICAN that seems to cover the existing situation perfectly. It ought to be read by every member of the present incompetent Congress, and its arguments pounded into them by their outraged constituents.

\*\*

#### CHIPS FROM WISDOM'S BLOCK.

Salt Lake City Tribune.

The Buenos Ayres Herald makes this very shrewd remark:

When a Minister appears before Congress to explain a public matter, it would be well for him to have some idea of the matter in hand.

That is about the wisest thing we have seen in print for a long time. We suggest that Mr. Cleveland incorporate that in his next message to Congress. The same paper has another paragraph which possibly may have an application further north. It reads as follows:

If the abilities of public men were equal to their vanity, we should easily become the first nation in the Western Hemisphere.

They must have a wag down in that *Herald* office under the Southern Cross.

\*\*

#### THE RECOVERY OF SILVER.

The Mining Review.

Large deals in silver-producing properties have recently been consummated in several of the mining States, and others are likely to take place within the next few weeks. In noting this fact the *Montana Mining and Market Reporter* expresses the belief that extensive silver-lead producing mines would not be purchased by influential moneyed men unless there was some prospect of the recovery of silver in the very near future. It says that "these deals are only indicators by which we can register the future outlook of silver mining in this country." This is a more optimistic view of the situation than the *Review* is inclined to take. The forces that are operating against silver are so tremendous that its recovery will be exceedingly difficult. The silver-using nations are poor and the gold-using nations are rich. For this reason the financiers of the latter are using every effort to discredit the money of the former. It is no less than robbery.

\*\*

#### THE PEOPLE "BUNCOED."

New York World.

It took just twenty-two minutes yesterday for the syndicate to go through the form of selling the new bond issue at 112½ and to pocket a profit of about \$5,000,000. \* \* \*

Does anybody now suppose that Mr. Cleveland "did the best he could" when he secretly sold these bonds to his former client's syndicate at 104½? With New Yorkers anxious for ten times the issue, and with London bankers bidding, as they did yesterday, for \$600,000,000 at 4½ points above the syndicate distributing price, can there be any doubt that the issue could have been sold in the open market for greatly more than was got for it? Was there any necessity or excuse for a secret negotiation with speculators to discredit the government and give millions of its money away? Is there any possible reason for supposing that a public at home and abroad which to-day wants ten or twenty times the issue at three or four times the premium would have failed to take this \$62,315,000 at a much better price than that at which it was sold, if the issue had been offered openly in the market?

Is there any term but "bunco" with which to describe the transaction between the government and the syndicate?

## AMONG THE PREACHERS.

BOVIO'S opera, "Christ at the Feast of the Purim," has been put in the Index Expurgatorius of books, which no good Catholic may read.

\*\*

It is estimated that ten years ago three-fourths of the Lutherans of America were in the country congregations, but now over one-half the Lutheran strength is in the cities.

\*\*

The *Christian Witness* has discovered a new beatitude, "Blessed is the contributor to the newspaper who knows enough to be brief." And all the clerical and lay editors will say, "Amen!"

\*\*

The *Westminster Gazette* tells a story of a person who insisted upon praying before an English congregation in Gaelic, "because," he said, "in a serious case none but the Gaelic language would be effective above."

\*\*

The appropriations of the Methodist Episcopal Church for Foreign Missions for the coming year are \$592,940, and for Home, \$478,205. For the debt last year, \$175,764, and miscellaneous, \$119,000, making a total of \$1,365,909.

## SOCIOLOGICAL SUBJECTS.

THE diet of labor is more closely related to its productive power than is generally supposed. It is inferred, and that possibly in a vague and desultory way, that half-fed labor is not so capable as that having three meals a day. It is also a fact that the dietary needs of labor do not figure as they should in the question of a living wage. The earning power of a worker cannot be absolutely regulated by a timekeeper or the capacity of a machine. The interest taken in what is done, as well as the power to do it, are not office regulations or functions of a manager. They are personal, and also as largely dependent on what a man eats as on what he thinks. Impoverish his diet and you impoverish his productive power.—*Age of Steel, St. Louis.*

\*\*

The blind as an element in society have been greatly affected by the influence of the Gospel. In many lands and times they were regarded as lying under a curse from the gods, either for their own sin or that of others. A trace of this paganism lingers in Christian countries, in the profane invocation, "May God strike me blind if I lie!" and the like. The question of the disciples shows that this notion had struck root even among the Jews. Josephus says that belief in pre-existence was common, if not usual, among the Pharisees. This left open the possibility that a man born blind might have brought his woe upon himself in a previous state of existence, if it was not the fault of his parents which had been punished by giving them a blind child.

Christ sets the supposition aside, denying, as Job did, that such calamities can be traced directly to the sins of those who suffer them. He finds their end, not in the punitive justice of God, but in the manifestation of His work among men. So even blindness serves as part of the education of the race at God's hand. It helps to evoke the sympathy and care of their fellows, and so manifest the work of God in making the human heart. It also serves to effect a more delicate training of all the other senses, through the very lack of this one. We never should have known what hearing, touch and smell were capable, if we had not seen their wonderful development in the blind. And it serves to manifest the qualities of cheerful courage and perseverance with which God endows the spirits of His children, and which are nowhere more notably visible than in these children of darkness.

This especial blind man served to make visible and intelligible to his fellow-citizens the work of God in redemption. His cure was a parable of the Saviour's work, as he came to the spiritually blind to open their eyes. And, while we have not reached the point of being able to give sight to any but a few of those who endure this great privation, this miracle, like all His miracles, was a prophecy of what is now doing for the especial calamity with which it is concerned. The deeper interest in this class in Christian society has been the means of making them see by the eyes of their brethren. All that sight can gather of the world is put before them in human speech and the printed page. They thus walk in life by the friendly help of other men's arms; and, in-

stead of having to sit begging by the wayside, they have a score of ways for making their own living, most of which have been devised by their more favored brethren. In this country, at any rate, no blind persons need to beg because they are blind. When any do so, they have chosen that easier and lazier way of living because they prefer it, and no alms should be wasted on them.—President Robert Ellis Thompson, S. T. D., in the *Sunday School Times*.

## RAILROADS AND RECEIVERS.

CHICAGO is to have electric railway mail cars.

\*\*

The sale of the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad has been postponed until April 17th.

\*\*

New Haven, Conn., motormen have petitioned the electric roads to inclose the forward platforms, to protect them from severe weather.

\*\*

There are 824 miles of electric surface railways in operation in Massachusetts, and they carried 220,464,099 passengers during the year 1894.

\*\*

Stockholders of the Columbus, Hocking Valley and Toledo Railway Company will hold their annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on March 20th.

\*\*

In the N<sup>o</sup>. York State Assembly a bill has been introduced submitting to all municipalities the question of municipal ownership of street railways.

\*\*

A contract for 1,500 freight cars, with all modern improvements, has been closed between the Michigan Peninsular Railroad Company, in Detroit, and the New York Central Railroad.

\*\*

Stockholders of the Augusta Southern Railroad will meet in Augusta, Ga., on March 20th, to vote on the question of issuing bonds to get money to change the line from narrow to broad gauge.

\*\*

Charles Norris, agent of the Michigan Central Railroad in Joliet, Ill., has resigned to take the management of the Rio de Janeiro branch of the Pan-American Coffee and Commercial Company in Brazil.

\*\*

The work of grading the new electric railroad between Saginaw and Bay City, Mich., will begin in the early spring. The fare for a round trip will be twenty-five cents. Cars capable of holding seventy-two people will be run.

\*\*

The Georgia Central receivers have been authorized by the Court to buy 1,500 tons of seventy-pound steel rails for the main line, and 5,000 tons of sixty-three-and-one-half-pound rails for the Southwestern Railroad. The cost of the new rails will be about \$125,000.

\*\*

By a decree of the State Supreme Court in Missouri, the consolidation of the Grand Avenue Cable Railway and the Kansas City Railway companies is annulled on appeal of the minority stockholders of both corporations. They allege the consolidation was effected without their knowledge or consent.

\*\*

Upon application of the Chicago and Northwestern and other railroads, the Interstate Commerce Commission has suspended the long and short haul clause of the Interstate commerce law, so as to enable railroads that desire to do so, to carry at cheaper rates to longer distance points in the Nebraska region of crop failure.

\*\*

Judge Speer, of the United States Court in Savannah, Ga., has granted an order authorizing the Macon and Dublin Railway Company, in the event of failure to agree with Georgia Central receivers on a price for a thirty-five-mile graded right of way along its proposed route, now owned by the Savannah and Western, to apply to the State Courts for proceedings to condemn the property.

## FACTS FOR FINANCIERS.

IT is estimated that more gold and silver have been sunk in the sea than are now in circulation on the earth.

\*\*

Recent reports are that there are about 225,000,000 tons of coal deposits in Sudero, one of the Faroe islands in the Baltic Sea, besides considerable deposits of iron and copper ore.

\*\*

Alluvial and reef gold has been discovered in Madagascar at Antinahaka, north of Antananarivo. A thousand ounces were taken by native workers from a strip of ground twenty feet by three.

\*\*

A company is being organized in Denver, Col., to operate in the Alaska mining fields. Quite a number of prospectors from Colorado are to be taken up there and started in at lode hunting and placer mining.

\*\*

A new gold district called Currant Creek was recently discovered near Cripple Creek, Colorado, which promises to rival the bonanza gold camp. People are flocking into the country from all sources in spite of the deep snows.

\*\*

Herr Treitl, a Vienna hardware merchant, who died recently at ninety-one, left 800,000 florins of his fortune to the Vienna Academy of Sciences for the promotion of scientific research. He left a quarter of a million florins besides to charitable institutions.

\*\*

*Bradstreet's* says that the total number of business failures in the United States this past week does not vary materially from the preceding weekly aggregate, amounting to 296, as compared with 296 last week, 288 in the second week of February a year ago, 205 in 1893 and 206 in 1892.

\*\*

A Mexico City special says: "Silver mining has received no check as a result of the depression in the value of that metal. As the country is on a silver basis, the silver sold abroad handsomely pays miners, who gain the exchange. The only people who feel the depression are foreign holders of silver mining shares."

\*\*

Arizona reports the discovery of a tin mine on the Colorado River, 125 miles from Yuma. The ore is pronounced a grayish black color, resembling galena, a sample of which was tested by the Phoenix assayer, who claimed it to contain about ten to forty per cent. tin. The ore lies in a bed apparently of several hundred acres, is mixed with red and yellowish oxides and is covered with quartz and talc.

\*\*

The report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs for the State of Pennsylvania shows that the total amount of stock of railway corporations authorized by law in that State is \$1,099,303,383.42, and the capital stock outstanding is \$944,670,893.64. In 1890 the amount of stock outstanding was \$801,400,126.71; in 1891, \$862,219,423.58; in 1892, \$882,184,620.47; in 1893, \$925,133,596.38. These figures indicate a gradual yearly increase, and show a total increase of \$143,270,766.92.

\*\*

The average yearly production of gold during the ten years 1831-1840 was only 652,291 fine ounces; during the ten years 1841-1850 it rose to an annual average of 1,760,502 ounces. During the five years 1851-1855, in consequence of the rich harvest from the recently discovered mines of California and Australia, the average annual production of gold suddenly leaped to 6,410,325 ounces, and in 1856-1860 to the highest figure that had ever been reached up to that time, and has never been exceeded since, except in 1892, 1893 and 1894—namely: to 6,486,262 ounces; that is, in between twenty and twenty-five years the annual average of the production of gold increased nearly tenfold! Even the production of silver during the last quarter of a century has not increased at that rate—one thousand per cent.

## Wanamaker's

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A visitor need not be buyer, though the Spring exhibitions of Dress Goods, Silks, Laces and thousands of other pretty things will be a strong temptation.

What you do not like after you get it home may be brought back, unless it is a tooth-brush, mattress or spoilable fan or feather.

All prices are guaranteed the lowest.

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## For the Young Folks.

Treasure-Trove (Stories), with full-page illustrations, 4to. Our price, 30c.

Diccon the Bold. A story of the Days of Columbus. \$1.25. Our price, 30c.

A Flat Iron for a Farthing. By Mrs. Ewing. Our price, 15c. History of England. By Leon Schmitz. \$1. Our price, 20c. History of Greece. By Leon Schmitz. \$1. Our price, 20c.

Thirteenth street side.

## CUSTOM TAILORING

There are 22 styles of the new \$7.50-the-pair Trouserings to go into Trousers at \$5 the pair. Made to measure in our careful way!

English Worsted Coats and Vests, black, \$18.50 instead of \$24. Juniper and Market streets.

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE, N. Y.  
REPORT OF THE JUDGES.

This is a very fine exhibition of various styles of Photographs, both large and small. The general tone and finish of all the work is very superior. This artist thoroughly understands his art, and deserves very high recognition.

The Photo-mechanical pictures included in this exhibit represent some of the finest work that has ever been produced from a gelatine relief surface. For the entire exhibit we recommend the award of a Medal of Taste. The Medal of Taste awarded.

CHAS. WAGNER HALL,  
General Superintendent.

## OUR WORK

The Criterion Everywhere.  
Unrivaled for Delicacy,  
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## HEALTH HINTS FOR HOME-FOLK.

FOR a mouth wash or gargle mix one dram of pure carbolic acid, one ounce of glycerine and eight ounces of distilled water.

\*\*

For "a bloating of the stomach" and a belching of gas and sour fluid after meals you may be relieved by using five drops of tincture of nux vomica in water before each meal and five grains subgallate of bismuth after eating.

\*\*

For headache caused by overwork the effervescent preparation of hydrobromate of caffeine may be used with very good results. One or two teaspoonfuls should be taken in cold water every three hours, or oftener if necessary.

\*\*

An eminent physician calls attention to a simple means of keeping chills, colds and the ailments that cold weather brings on at a distance. Deep and forced respiration, he says, will keep the entire body in a glow in the coldest weather, though one be thinly clad. He declares he was himself half frozen to death one night, and began taking deep breaths and keeping the air in his lungs as long as possible, with the result that he was thoroughly comfortable in a few minutes.

\*\*

Success in treating burns depends upon the completeness with which the irritation is arrested and the air excluded.

Surface burns are for the most part caused by dry heat, from direct contact of the flesh with the flame, or by moist heat in the form of hot water or steam.

Scalds are more painful, and, where the injury is extensive, much more dangerous than wounds caused by dry heat. In burns from dry heat the damage to the tissues is generally complete; while hot water and steam leave the flesh dead, it is true, as far as its usefulness is concerned, but still capable of undergoing decomposition and putrefaction with all the accompanying dangers.

Whatever their nature, however, all burns are to be treated alike. If caused by heat the part should immediately be wrapped in some substance that will effectually exclude the air, which becomes a source of irritation to the raw flesh. This may be done very simply and easily by cotton wadding soaked in caron oil; or, if these articles are not at hand, the burn may be sprinkled liberally with baking soda, starch or even flour, with just enough water added afterward to make a thick paste. All blisters should be slightly pricked before the part is dressed.

After the wound has been smeared with some one of the above preparations it may be lightly covered with cotton wadding. The dressing should be removed daily, and the part carefully washed with a weak solution of carbolic acid, say from three to five per cent., and redressed.

Burns caused by acids or other irritating substances should be immediately immersed in running water, that the irritant may be diluted and carried off.

If the burn is severe or extensive there will be symptoms of a constitutional disturbance of proportional severity. The first signs will be those of shock or collapse, which should be treated with stimulants and hot applications to the heart and extremities. Within forty-eight hours the stage of reaction and inflammation usually occurs, and we may have, as accompanying symptoms, fever and inflammation of any of the organs of the body. If the trouble grows worse, after about a fortnight erysipelas and blood-poisoning may result. There is nothing to be done in these last stages but to follow a physician's orders.

It is obvious that we may have all degrees of burns, from a simple blister to the complete destruction of a limb. What has been said in reference to treatment pertains only to lighter cases; more serious burns should be treated by the family physician.

## NUGGETS AND NUBBINS.

**A SKER**—What would be an appropriate name for a girl baby born on a railroad train?

Basker—Cinder Ella.

\*\*

Minister—No, Willie, you will never get ahead by telling stories. Willie—I won't? Why, I told a story about Johnny Jones, wat's bigger'n me, an' you bet he put a head on me.

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A dancing master, in renewing his solicitations for patronage, wishes to express his obligations for past favors, when the printer, by mistake, made him say, "Most respectfully offers his shanks."

\*\*

She (in the box)—I wonder who that man over there in the orchestra is? He never smiles when the audience roars, but instead looks sour. He (with her)—He must be a dramatic critic.

\*\*

Labor Agitator—Every man is the architect of his own fortune. Murphy (from the rear of the hall)—Yis, that's so, but he stands a mighty poor chance when he has nothing but a shovel or hod to draw his plans wid.

\*\*

De Bach—Of course, there are some comforts which men with wives have that bachelors do not, but, after all, a man has to give up a great deal when he gets married, doesn't he?

Longwed—Y—yes; every cent, the most of us.

\*\*

"Was yours a long courtship, old fellow?" "Gracious, no! My wife had nine little brothers and sisters." "Really, But what difference did that make?" "What difference? Well, if you had to bribe a crowd like that to keep out of the drawing-room every time you went to see your girl you'd soon want to cut short the expense."

\*\*

#### THE OLD-FASHIONED FIREPLACE.

How dear to my heart are the days of my childhood,  
When there were no cold gas stoves to rouse a man's ire;  
When the hickory backlog, brought in from the wildwood,  
Gave out the bright heat of the old-fashioned fire!

How it crackled and sparkled, and fluttered and brightened!  
How nice it all seems when it's put into rhyme!  
Yet, to tell the plain truth, to our youth unenlightened,  
You couldn't warm more than one side at a time.

Ah, the old-fashioned fireplace, the roaring old fireplace!  
How brightly it glowed with its sparkle and shine!  
How it warmed up your shins to point of real torture,  
While the cold winter breezes played tag on your spine!

—Indianapolis Journal.

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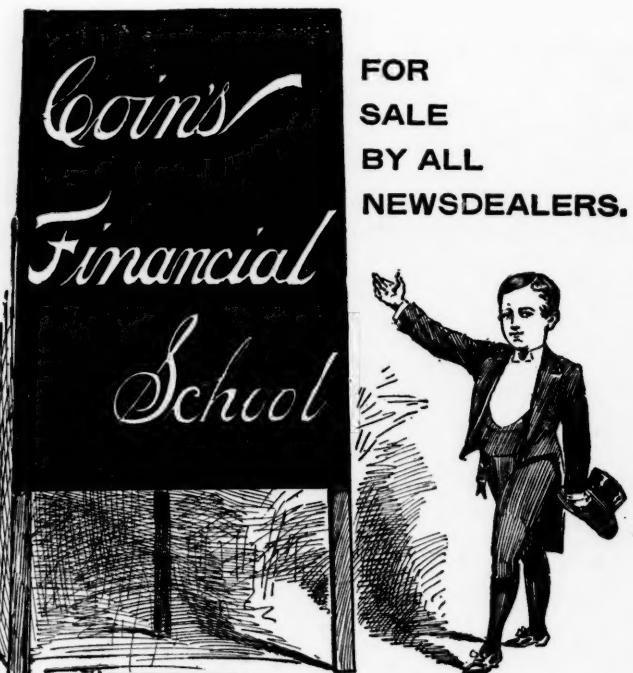
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